

Facts About Stalking

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- Between 2%-13% of males and 8%-32% of females experience stalking at some point in their lives (Spitzberg & Cupach, 2006).
- An estimated 14 in every 1,000 persons aged 18 and older experience stalking during a single year (Baum et al., 2009).
- About half (46%) of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week, and 11% of victims said they had been stalked for 5 years or more (Baum et al., 2009).
- Studies show that stalking behaviors are most common in relationships that are either about to end or recently ended (Fisher et al., 2002; Spitzberg & Cupach, 2006; Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998).
- Women are at greater risk (20 out of 1,000 women) than men (7 out of 1,000 men) for stalking victimization; however, women and men are equally likely to experience harassment (Baum et al., 2009).
- Risk of being stalked decreases with age; persons aged 18 to 19 (30 per 1,000 persons) and 20 to 24 (28 per 1,000 persons) experienced the highest rates of stalking victimization in 2006 (Baum et al., 2009).
- Tjaden and Thoennes (1998) report that 52% of stalking victims fall in the age range of 18-29.
- The most common type of stalking behaviors are unwanted phone calls (62% of victims experienced this) and unwanted messages (31% of stalking victims experienced this). Other common behaviors including showing up places uninvited and watching from a distance (Baum et al., 2009).
- Approximately 1 in 4 stalking victims reported some form of cyberstalking, such as unwanted emails (83%) (Baum et al., 2009)
- Electronic monitoring was used to stalk 1 in 13 victims, with video/digital cameras and listening devices used in slightly less than half of these cases and GPS technology comprising about a tenth of such cases (Baum et al., 2009).
- Nearly 3 in 4 stalking victims knew their offender in some capacity. Stalking victims most often identified the stalker as a former intimate partner (21.5%) or a friend, roommate, or neighbor (16.4%) (Baum et al., 2009).
- Males were as likely to report being stalked by a male as a female offender; 43% of male stalking victims stated that the offender was female, while 41% of male victims stated that the offender was another male (Baum et al., 2009).
- Female victims of stalking were significantly more likely to be stalked by a male (67%) rather than a female (24%) offender (Baum et al., 2009).
- In general, men are more likely to be perpetrators of stalking (87%), and women are more likely to be targets of stalking behaviors (78%) (Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998).

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References

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